



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING



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June 18, 2003

MEMORANDUM

TO: ISD Special Education Directors
cc: Transition Coordinators

FROM: Jacquelyn J. Thompson, Ph.D., Director
Office of Special Education and Early Intervention Services

SUBJECT: Targeted Transition Activities for FY 2003-04

The Transition Formula Grants for FY 2003-04 are available through the Michigan Education Grants System (MEGS). You will be receiving more detailed information on specific activities, training, and evaluation of the status of transition in your districts in the fall. The following is being provided as an overview of the primary development activities scheduled for the upcoming school year.

During FY 2003-04, an analysis of discreet transition elements embedded in the IEP process will be used to assess ISD and LEA status on transition. This information is critical for the completion of federal reporting requirements on school performance and student outcomes as well as for continuous improvement in the delivery of special education services to students. This information will also be a powerful tool for staff and the Department to use to continue the enhancement of transition programs and services.

The process that will be used during FY 2003-04 is as follows:

- ISD Transition Coordinators will review a well-known research based process that identifies and analyzes transition elements embedded in the IEP process as part of a training-the-trainer model.
- ISD Transition coordinators will then train local district contacts in this process. (ISD Transition Coordinators will receive continuing and structured support to enhance their work with local district contacts.)
- Using the process, a limited sample of IEP files will be reviewed in each ISD during a uniform time window to gather and analyze discreet transition information.
- The aggregated data will serve as the primary source to inform the design of future state level transition initiatives.
- District level information will be used to identify improvement needs for ISDs and LEAs.

The 2003-04 school year promises to be exciting and challenging for all of us. School personnel will continue to be challenged by the accountability standards of No Child Left Behind and the implications of a newly reauthorized IDEA. The imminent changes that these statutes present are tremendous opportunities for all of us to become increasingly sophisticated about how to help ALL students achieve. The use of data to drive our systems to reform and improvement is now the foundation for our work.

We have been exceptionally fortunate that we have had a decade of work in the area of transition that we are able to build upon. The efforts of the staff at the Transition Services Project, which ends this September, have been invaluable in creating a foundation for future work. At this time, if you have any questions concerning the Formula Grant activities for FY 2003-2004, please contact Dr. Fran Loose at (517) 241-4414 or at loosef@michigan.gov.

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